
Texas EMS Awards honor best in emergency response

Awards – isn't it nice to be recognized for the good work you do? For more than 20 years, the best in EMS and trauma have been honored at Texas EMS Conference during Tuesday's Award Luncheon. Have you nominated anyone or any service for a Texas EMS Award? If you know of someone who is outstanding or of an exemplary organization, please take the time to nominate them for an award. You can find a nomination form at www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems. For more information on the awards, turn to page 10 in this issue.

The deadline for preconference registration is coming up fast – October 15 is the last day you can register for preconference classes. Then after November 1, the price for regular conference registration climbs to \$190. We try very hard to keep the prices low but all our costs are skyrocketing this year, especially food. We are researching ways to help you pinch some pennies while staying in Fort Worth. And if you're wondering where to make reservations, visit our conference page at www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/08conference.shtm. Click on Conference Blog for insider information on workshops and hotels, as well as any last-minute changes to the conference schedule.

GETAC is meeting in Austin as this magazine goes to press. The dates for 2009 are posted on our website and on page 26. We could not secure a deal with the Hilton Airport for our meetings next year, so we will be changing locations. The purchase request for the 2009 hotel is in the DSHS requisition pipeline right now. As soon as we get *confirmation* from them that a purchase order number has been assigned, we'll announce the location on our website. We have to operate under Murphy's Law when it comes to purchasing, so I don't want to make the announcement until we are absolutely sure the space is under contract.

You can't avoid the deer. I attended a funeral in July for someone who spent a lifetime helping others. Charles "Chuck" Burt, 66, an avid motorcyclist, was killed when he collided with a gravel truck as he returned from a cross-country trip. He was a longtime employee at the Department of Aging and Disability Services in the IT department. But he spent his hours outside the job volunteering for EMS (including Texas EMS Conference for many years) and for other causes he thought important. One of those causes was the Patriot Guard, a volunteer group that escorts funeral processions for our military personnel. With American flags waving from their bikes, these riders make sure that military families know we appreciate their sacrifices.

It was at his funeral that I heard what he had told his daughter many years ago when she warned him about traveling on his motorcycle at night through West Texas. She worried that he might not be able to avoid a deer that might wander onto the dark road. "You can't avoid the deer," he told her. And he was right – you can't avoid all the deer, any more than you can avoid all the risks that come with life and work in emergency response. So thanks to Chuck and everyone else for what you do to help others – and avoid the deer when you can.

Kelly

FROM THIS SIDE



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